

DISTRICT COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF IDAHO



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PRESS RELEASE
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The Fourth Judicial District Court of Idaho and its collaborative partners will open a misdemeanor Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court in Ada County in January 2013.

The magistrate level court program is a four-phase program designed to reduce recidivism and keep the public safe, while helping the offender rehabilitate and break the pattern of alcohol consumption and driving. There are already a number of misdemeanor DUI Court programs across Idaho and the Fourth Judicial District Court will join those efforts with a misdemeanor program at the Ada County Courthouse.

Funded with assistance from the Idaho Supreme Court and Ada County, the misdemeanor DUI Court program is modeled after successful felony Drug Court programs already in place in Ada County which require offenders to undergo substance abuse treatment in combination with education, judicial monitoring, formal probation and frequent alcohol / drug testing. The DUI Court program is designed for misdemeanor offenders who have received a second arrest for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and are ready to admit their crime and address their addiction.

Ada County magistrate judge Thomas Watkins will preside over the DUI Court. The program will be managed by the Ada County Problem Solving Court Office within the Trial Court Administrator's Office. Agencies working collaboratively with the program include the Idaho Supreme Court, Ada County, the Ada County Misdemeanor Probation Office, the Ada County Office of Public Defender, the Boise City Attorney's Office, and the Ada County Clerk's Office.

The Misdemeanor DUI Court Program will become operational at the Ada County Courthouse on January 9, 2013.